

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiners for the courtesy shown to their representatives during a personal interview on March 10, 2010. The participants were Examiner Casca, SPE Harper, Yoshinobu Idogawa, and the undersigned. The issues and claims discussed were new method, apparatus and integrated circuit claims having the scope of new claims 21-29 presented herein and their patentability over the applied art of record: Fukuda, Nilsson and Sibecas. It was noted that support exists for the new claims at least in Figs. 8 and 17 and the discussion thereof in the published application. Agreement was reached in that the Examiners concurred that the presently applied prior art references, considered alone or together, do not teach or suggest the subject matter of new claims 21-29. The Examiners said that further searching would be needed before issuance of a notice of allowance. A summary of the substance of the interview is included in the comments below. (It should be noted that references herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to any particular aspect of the referenced embodiments.)

During the interview, the undersigned noted that new claim 21 is directed to a transmitting apparatus transmits pilot signals to a plurality of user equipments. The apparatus includes a generator that generates a signal including a pattern information indicating which pilot pattern among at least two pilot patterns is respectively assigned to each time slot of a plurality of time slots, the pilot patterns representing an arrangement of pilot signals, at least two of the time slots being assigned different ones of the pilot patterns; and a transmitter that transmits the

signal including the pattern information to a plurality of user equipments, and transmits the pilot signals according to the pilot patterns respectively assigned to the time slots.

It was noted that Fukuda discloses an asynchronous transmission mode network, with Figs. 4 and 5 showing slot formation. It was noted that the reference makes no mention of pilot signals or the like.

It was noted that Nilsson discloses a frame construction in Fig. 2 of pilot signal blocks followed by data blocks.

It was noted that Sibecas discloses a system that uses different pilot arrangements based on error rate of a channel. Paragraph [0051] discloses pilot symbol patterns of different densities. Paragraph [0052] discloses a pilot pattern transmitted from a transmitter to a receiver. Paragraph [0058] discloses that information defining a given pattern is received by a receiver. It was noted that, however, Sibecas does not teach or suggest a transmitter that transmits a signal including pilot signal pattern information as defined in claim 21, to a plurality of user equipments.

It was noted that, in fact, none of the applied references discloses a transmitter that transmits a signal including pilot signal pattern information as defined in claim 21, to a plurality of user equipments, and thus, due to at least this subject matter, the combined teachings of the references fail to render obvious claim 21 or similar claims 25 and 27.

In view of the above, the Applicants submit that the teachings of the applied art of record, considered alone or together, would not have rendered obvious the subject matter defined by claim 21. Each of independent claims 25 and 27 similarly recites the above-discussed subject matter distinguishing apparatus claim 21 from the applied references, although claims 25 and 27 do so with respect to a method and integrated circuit, respectively. Therefore, allowance of each of claims 21-29 is considered to be warranted.

As noted above, agreement was reached at the interview that new claims 21-29 overcome the rejections of record, although an updated search would be performed before issuance of a notice of allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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JEL/DWW/att

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